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ABSTRACT

This book offers profiles of 30 high school students at Oak Park and River Forest (OPRF) High School, in the Chicago suburb of Oak Park, Illinois. Located in a neighborhood characterized by great disparity among residents' incomes, the school is one of the country's premier secondary schools. The book was written by the school dean, who taught a seminar to chronically truant students. The class focused on family systems, communication skills, service, negotiation, and how to make healthy choices. The profiles identify and address problems that prevented students from attending school. One chapter describes the self-portrait project that helped students develop positive self-images through poster art. Students' involvement in a project to keep a school for the blind from closing is also described. Included are sample letters from students to the author and eight figures. (Contains 14 references and 13 annotated references.) (LMI)

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